

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
BUILDING CODES COMMITTEE

May 21, 2003
Maricopa Association of Governments Office
Cholla Room
Phoenix, Arizona

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ken Sowers, Avondale
*Mike Tibbett, Carefree
Bob Lee, Cave Creek
A - Alex Banachowski, Chandler
*Unappointed, El Mirage
*Unappointed, Fountain Hills
*Unappointed, Gila Bend
A – Rick Usery, Gila River Indian
Community
A- Ray Patten, Gilbert
Bill Griffith, Glendale
Steve Burger, Goodyear
*Chuck Ransom, Litchfield Park
V - Armando Rivas, Paradise Valley

David Nakagawara, Peoria
George Leon, Phoenix
Tim Wegner, Queen Creek
Larry Francis, Salt River Pima Indian
Community
*David Potter, Scottsdale
*Forrest Fielder, Surprise
A - Michael Williams, Tempe
*Mario Rochin, Tolleson
*Skip Blunt, Wickenburg
Bob Cooperider, Youngtown
Tom Ewers, Maricopa County
*Rus Brock, Home Builders Association
*Orion Goff, Mesa

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

A-Those members participating via audioconference

V-Those members participating via videoconference

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Michelle Green, MAG

Constance Kish, MAG

1. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

2. Introductions

Members of the Committee introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 16, 2003

Tom Ewers moved to accept the minutes and Ken Sowers seconded the motion. Mr. Lee asked if there were any comments prior to taking a vote. Mr. Lee noted that the comment made by Mr. Tibbet may be incorrect. Michelle indicated that she would check with Mr. Tibbet to get the appropriate wording and make the change. A roll call vote was then taken and the minutes were approved with one abstention. Steve Burger who was not at that meeting abstained from voting on the minutes.

4. Call to the Public

The chair asked if anyone from the public or the committee would like to discuss a topic that is not on the agenda.

Steve Burger took the opportunity to recognize the Chairman of AZBO, Imad Eldurubi's, recent election to the Board of Governors for the World Organization of Building Officials (WOBO).

Bob explained that the hot water heater item would be deferred until Michael Neary and Anthony Floyd were prepared to circulate a copy of the policy as adopted by the committee.

Bob then noted that the City of Scottsdale voted to renew its fire service with Rural Metro. He also noted that voters in the Town of Cave Creek overwhelmingly approved home rule.

David announced that El Mirage would be getting a new building official starting the first week of June.

The discussion then went to the issue of the mission of the building codes committee and the issue of uniformity. Committee members are concerned about the committees' ability to carry out its mission if all member agencies are not on the same code.

Bob suggested that the committee focus on the similarities among communities and focus on what can be done from that perspective.

Steve Burger suggested that the committee has taken a step back, indicating that the committee should focus on policy and code administration. He also suggested that committee members take a step back and determine how committed they are to that.

David Nakagawara indicated that he has difficulty dedicating staff resources to this process if uniformity of building codes across the Valley is not possible.

The chair asked for any comments, hearing none he closed the call to the public.

5. Presentation on the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)

Mr. Dwight Perkins, the Northwest Manager of the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials gave a presentation regarding the history of the organization and describing the consensus code process from the perspective of IAPMO. Mr. Perkins then took questions from the committee.

Following the presentation, Mr. Lee made the comment that people are using the terms codes and standards interchangeably when they are two very different things.

Bob Lee asked Dwight if he thought that IAMPO and ICC would ever get together again. Dwight replied by saying that he did not really know, there has been some discussion of that but he was not sure how it would turn out.

Steve Burger expressed his displeasure with the process, indicating that the process appears to have some fatal flaws in it. There seems to be the potential to minimize code requirements.

Dwight replied that this seems to be the most inclusive way of producing one set of codes.

Dwight pointed out that the gas fired hot water heater requires three codes while under NFPA only one code would be required.

Bob indicated that the IRC would cover more than that.

Steve asked if the standards council is able to overturn a decision of the membership.

Mr. Perkins said yes.

Steve explained that he was just curious as to why the membership can vote and then have their decision overturned.

Steve then mentioned that the first code was adopted prior to 2003 and asked what the problem or issues with that code were.

Dwight replied that there was nothing wrong with the prior code. Dwight then indicated that there are free books and training to all code enforcers. He also mentioned that there is an new office located near Ontario, California.

Bob then asked if, in the big picture, IAPMO and the ICC would ever get together again.

Dwight explained that he did not really know what the future holds; however, it is not likely. He stated that we felt that we were on the right track but due to philosophical differences it did not happen.

Dwight then asked if this committee intends to adopt the plumbing code.

Bob then explained that in this instance, the State dictates. The problem is that the State timeline is slow and we are still on the 1994 Plumbing code. Bob indicated that the fact that carpenters can vote on a plumbing code leaves a bad taste in building officials mouths.

Dwight responded by stating that he feels that the process to develop codes is good but he is tired of stomping out when it comes to an he said, she said issue. Misinformation is a problem.

Steve indicated that building officials are caught in the middle between groups that want to sell books.

Steve suggested that a melding of the three codes, if we came together and took the collective knowledge then we could do a good job of writing a code.

The chair thanked the guest speaker and indicated that it is not the intent of the committee to shoot the messenger but that the committee does have issues with the NFPA code.

6. Update on Activities of the Building Inspectors and Plans Examiners Forum

Cheryl Levandowski was unavailable to provide an update on the forum; however, there was a discussion regarding multiple utilities in one trench when the utilities are servicing a guesthouse or an auxiliary structure. Bob asked the forum to look into this issue.

Tom indicated that there are different codes that cover this issue, including civil engineers and utility companies.

Bob explained that if they are a detached structure then they are not regulated in the same way.

Tom asked if the utility regulated it in that case.

Bob asked if it regulated in that case.

Tom indicated that the 1994 Plumbing Code required a minimum separation.

7. Update on the State Plumbing Commission

Mr. Burger reported that he e-mailed the roster and asked George Leon to check on the representative for Phoenix Central. Mr. Leon agreed to do so.

8. Update Survey of Code Adoption

The chair indicated that a table showing the codes adopted for each member agency was attached with the minutes and agenda. He then asked that any changes or corrections that need to be made to that table be reported to either Constance or Michelle.

A discussion arose regarding the fact that all member agencies should strive to use the same code. Steve Burger made a motion to use the 2003 International codes with a goal of an effective date of July 2004. Tim Wegner seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

9. Updated MAG Building Codes Committee Membership

There is one change to the committee roster. Pam Anderson of the Town of Fountain Hills retired. There is no replacement at this time.

10. Topics for Future Agendas

Bob Lee stated that Southwest Gas would be presenting regarding changes to Federal regulations regarding the manufacturing of hot water heaters. Bob indicated that Fran Smith of Southwest Gas would do her best to get as many manufactures as possible.

11. Adjournment

Tom made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Steve Burger. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm. The next meeting will be June 18, 2003 in the Cholla Room.